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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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The listing below of the claims presents in amended form claims 1 through 9 that were approved by the International Preliminary Examination Authority and that were determined to satisfy the PCT patentability criteria in the international phase of the corresponding PCT application. Claims 8 and 9 are new claims that are also based upon the approved PCT claims. The following claims replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of producing a heating element that is ~~comprised~~ composed essentially of molybdenum silicide type material and alloys of ~~this~~ that basic material, ~~characterised by~~ said method comprising the steps of: producing a heating element material that contains substantially $\text{Mo}(\text{Si}_{1-x}\text{Al}_x)_2$ and Al_2O_3 by mixing a molybdenum aluminium silicide $\text{Mo}(\text{Si}_{1-y}\text{Al}_y)_2$ with bentonite clay in a known manner ~~known per se~~, wherein the bentonite clay ~~is caused to contain~~ contains impure substances with which molybdenum silicide cannot be alloyed and with which the symmetry of the crystal lattice of the molybdenum silicide is retained ~~with~~ at a combined impure substance content of less than 2000 ppm ; and forming a heating element from the heating element material.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A method according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the ~~combined content of the impurities~~ impure

substances include at least one of Mg, Ca, Fe, Na, and K, and the combined content of the impure substances is caused to be less than 2000 ppm.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A method according to Claim 1 or 2, characterised in that wherein the content of said impurities impure substances is caused to be less than 1000 ppm.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A method according to Claim 1, 2 or 3, characterised in that wherein x is caused to lie lies in the range of 0.4 - 0.6.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A method according to Claim 1, 2 or 3, characterised in that wherein x is caused to lie lies in the range of 0.45 - 0.55.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A method according to Claim 1, 2, 3 or 4, characterised by including the step of substituting molybdenum partly with at least one of Re or and W in the material $\text{Mo}(\text{Si}_{1-x}\text{Al}_x)_2$.

Claim 7 (currently amended): [[A]] An electrical heating element that is comprised composed substantially of the molybdenum silicide type material and alloys of this that basic material, characterised in that said element is comprised chiefly of comprising the materials $\text{Mo}(\text{Si}_{1-x}\text{Al}_x)_2$ and Al_2O_3 ; in that wherein the heating element material contains impure substances with which the molybdenum silicide can not be alloyed and with which the symmetry of the

crystal lattice of the molybdenum silicide is maintained with , wherein the impure substances are present at a combined content of less than 2000 ppm.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A heating element according to Claim 7, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the impure substances include Mg, Ca, Fe, Na, and K and the combined content of the impurities Mg, Ca, Fe, Na and K is caused to be impure substances is less than 2000 ppm.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A heating element according to Claim 7 ~~or 8, characterised in that~~ wherein the impurity impure substance content of said material is less than 1000 ppm.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A heating element according to Claim 7, 8 ~~or 9, characterised in that~~ wherein x lies in the range of 0.4 - 0.6.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A heating element according to Claim 7, 8 ~~or 9, characterised in that~~ wherein x ~~is caused to lie~~ lies in the range of 0.45 - 0.55.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A heating element according to Claim 7, 8, 9, 10 ~~or 11, characterised in that~~ wherein molybdenum in the material $\text{Mo}(\text{Si}_{1-x}\text{Al}_x)_2$ is replaced partially with at least one of Re ~~or~~ and W.